

Memorandum of Agreement

Agreement is made this ____ day of _____ 2006 by these parties:

The Town/Village/Agency/Department of _____ (cosignatory) and its local corporate and nonprofit partners, and the County of Schoharie Hazard Mitigation Committee and its partners.

WHEREAS the parties:

Strive to create sustainable communities that are resistant to the human and economic costs of disaster;

Recognize that actions taken in advance of disasters are effective in reducing losses; that partnerships among government agencies, private companies, voluntary and professional associations, educational institutions, and community organizations are essential for the success of these efforts;

Recognize that vulnerable conditions exist in public and private facilities, and the utility and transportation systems that serve them; that changing population growth and diversity, escalating disaster costs, and other factors increase vulnerability to disaster;

Recognize that financial support is necessary to enable the expansion and integration of public and private mitigation efforts;

Agree to continue to receive and encourage the input of stakeholders with the State, Town, Village, businesses and nonprofit organizations in Schoharie County, neighboring communities, citizens, and other appropriate partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed that the parties voluntarily enter into this non-binding Agreement to establish the Schoharie County Partnership for Disaster Mitigation (the Partnership).

The principal objective of this Agreement is to further develop private, volunteer, and public-sector capabilities (people, policies, resources, working relationships, long-term plans, and a schedule for accomplishments) necessary to carry out projects that will reduce vulnerability to risk and minimize losses.

- 1. MEMBERSHIP.** Membership in the Partnership is open and can be expanded to include new partners in the future. The Partnership will work together to advise the County and participate in the implementation of the Schoharie County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan to further mutual loss-reduction goals subject to the terms and conditions recited below.

2. **TERM.** The respective duties, responsibilities, and commitments of the parties hereto shall commence on the date this Agreement is signed by the parties and may be periodically renewed or revised at the option of the parties.
3. **CONSULTATIONS.** The Cosignatories shall make their representative available to consult with Schoharie County Hazard Mitigation Committee on ways in which the goals and actions can be improved and applied successfully. The Cosignatories, in consultation and conjunction with other public-sector entities and related community-wide initiatives, shall consult with each other on:
 - Identification and delineation of natural and manmade hazards within the County;
 - Assessment of risk to and vulnerability of buildings, facilities, utilities, communications, and transportation systems in the public and private sectors;
 - Techniques to plan for, reduce, and manage expected losses; and
 - Technical and financial assistance and incentives to facilitate loss reduction projects.
4. **ANNUAL EVALUATION.** The parties shall annually review the Partnership created by this Agreement at a hazard mitigation meeting (each March) to determine and document successes achieved over the past year and discuss actions to be undertaken in the following year. The Cosignatories shall make a representative or several representatives available to attend the annual hazard mitigation meeting and to work toward implementing the plan each year. The Partnership shall also make recommendations for improving this Agreement and other disaster mitigation/recovery strategies.
5. **RESOURCE COMMITMENT.** The parties will consider committing human, technical, and financial resources, coordinate with current and future partners, and carry out the fundamental actions of this voluntary, non-binding Agreement.
6. **INCORPORATION INTO PLANS.** The parties agree to consult the Schoharie County Hazard Mitigation Committee when undertaking a new plan that affects the County or incorporate the requirements of the Schoharie County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan into new plans as appropriate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party has caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives on the date first mentioned above.